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Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda*

REVIEW OF SECTORAL CLUSTERS, FIRST PHASE: TOXIC CHEMICALS AND HAZARDOUS WASTES

Letter dated 6 May 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request that the attached documents regarding the International Conference on Chemical Safety, as called for in programme area G of chapter 19 of Agenda 21 (paras. 19.75 and 19.76), convened by the Executive Heads of the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, and held in Stockholm from 25 to 29 April 1994 at the invitation of the Government of Sweden, be circulated as documents of the Commission on Sustainable Development under item 6 (b) of the agenda for its second session.

(Signed) Peter OSVALD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Sweden
to the United Nations

* E/CN.17/1994/1.

IPCS/ICCS/94.8
29 April 1994
Original: English

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHEMICAL SAFETY

Stockholm, Sweden
25-29 April 1994

FINAL REPORT

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHEMICAL SAFETY
Stockholm, 25-29 April 1994

REPORT

OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

1. In response to the invitation of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) Agenda 21 to further consider the establishment of an intergovernmental forum on chemical safety, the Executive Heads of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Labour Office (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) convened the International Conference on Chemical Safety (ICCS), which was held at the invitation of the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden in Stockholm, 25-29 April 1994. Representatives from 114 countries together with those from United Nations bodies, Specialized Agencies of the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGO's) took part in the Conference.

2. In the presence of His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, Mr O. Johansson, Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources, Sweden, welcomed participants. Mr Johansson noted the importance of the meeting in the follow-up process to UNCED and the role and responsibilities of all governments, organizations, industry, individuals - in achieving sustainable development. Introductory addresses were made by Dr H. Nakajima, Director-General, WHO, Mr P. Gopinath, Assistant Director-General, ILO, Mr J. Huismans, Assistant Executive Director, UNEP, and Professor Dr K. Töpfer, Minister of the Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety, Germany, thanking the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden for their generosity in hosting the conference and extending appreciation to governments who helped ensure the broadest possible participation in the Conference. Reviewing the chemical safety programmes of their respective organizations, each emphasized the importance and priority currently given the area. Agenda 21 has called for increased coordination both within and outside the United Nations system. Building on the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) as the nucleus, work is well underway to strengthen and improve the coordination of the efforts of international organizations. WHO, as one of the three partners in IPCS, has pledged increased support to the collaborative programme, and offered to host an interim Secretariat for the proposed Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

3. The Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly, suitably modified for the circumstances, were adopted for the Conference. The Conference elected as its officers: Dr K. Niblaeus (Sweden) as President; Dr D. Ogaram (Uganda), Dr P.M.B. Cyril (Sri Lanka), Mr A.J. Santos (Brazil) and Professor D. Mavoungou (Gabon) as Vice Presidents; and Dr N. King (UK) as Rapporteur.

4. The Agenda, document IPCS/ICCS/94.1, was adopted without modification.

SETTING THE SCENE

5. Dr M. Mercier (Director, IPCS) presented the paper "Setting the Scene", document IPCS/ICCS/94.2, outlining the events leading to the Conference and emphasizing that the proposed Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety was not meant to be a new institutional body but rather part of a mechanism for coordination of national and international work in the field of chemical safety.

MESSAGES ADDRESSED TO THE CONFERENCE

6. Ms E. Barsk-Rundquist, United Nations Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (UN/DPCSD) read a message on behalf of Mr N. Desai, Under-Secretary General, UN/DPCSD, which placed the Conference in the context of preparation for the deliberations of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), at its Second Session, on implementation of UNCED Agenda 21, Chapter 19.

7. Dr C. Cortinas de Nava (Mexico), at the invitation of the President, spoke about some of the problems and opportunities facing developing countries in relation to chemical safety. She called for the creation of machinery which would respond to these problems, particularly at the regional and sub-regional levels, and which would enable the exchange of experience at these levels.

8. Mr M. Strong (Chairman of the Earth Council) addressing the Conference stressed the ongoing nature of the UNCED process and the importance of this Conference in the implementation of Agenda 21. He welcomed the broad spectrum of participation from countries of all regions, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the spirit of UNCED.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM ON CHEMICAL SAFETY: TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

9. The document IPCS/ICCS/94.3, "Draft Terms of Reference for an Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety", was introduced by Mr J. Huismans, who drew attention to two fundamental issues, namely the nature of the Forum as a non-institutional arrangement and the type of Secretariat support needed for such a Forum. Dr C. Pinnagoda (Chief, Occupational Safety and Health Branch, ILO) presented document IPCS/ICCS/94.4, "Administrative and Financial Matters Concerning the Forum". He identified the main issues for consideration, namely the arrangements for the Secretariat for the Forum, both for an interim and long-term period, and the financing of the meetings of the Forum, its subsidiary structure and a Secretariat to service the Forum.

10. In discussion, the Conference agreed that these proposals were broadly acceptable although many valuable suggestions were made which improved and strengthened the texts. Many delegations emphasized the need to have strong regional and sub-regional elements in the structures and work of the Forum. Some delegations emphasized that the resources needed for the Forum should not be provided at the expense of the scientific work of the IPCS. Several delegations, including those of Belgium, Finland and Norway, indicated their readiness to provide new resources. A range of views was expressed on some important aspects of the proposals. These included the relationship of the Forum and its Intersessional Group (ISG) to the proposed strengthened IPCS; whether or not a Secretariat for the Forum should be functionally distinct from (but co-located with) the IPCS Secretariat; the frequency of sessions of the Forum; voting procedures; languages to be used; the size and composition of the ISG; the procedure for calling meetings of the ISG; and finances and resources. The resolution of the particular issue concerning the size and composition of the ISG was greatly assisted by the intervention of Ambassador B. Kjellén (Sweden) (IPCS/ICCS/CRP.1). With the assistance of a small informal working group led by Mr I. Fuller (USA), all these issues were satisfactorily resolved. Note was taken by the Conference of the active role which needs to be played by the non-governmental organizations in implementing Agenda 21, particularly in relation to the strengthening of social groups. The issues of enhancing the NGO participation in the work of the

Forum were addressed in this context. On a proposal from Kenya[1], a resolution on the establishment of an Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, including the revised Terms of Reference, was adopted by the Conference (IPCS/IFCS/94.Res.1).

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

11. The Conference paper "Implementation of Agenda 21: Chapter 19 Discussion Paper on Priorities for Action" (IPCS/ICCS/94.6) was introduced in plenary by Dr R. Lönngren (IPCS Consultant). The recommendations as drafted were broadly accepted. Several issues were of concern in all programme areas: the regional specific nature of situations and priorities; the role and responsibilities of the industrial sector, employers and workers; and making maximum use of existing systems and work of intergovernmental organizations. Access to adequate information on chemical safety is a high priority. In particular it was emphasized that the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition should be included in the priorities of the developed countries. Many useful suggestions were incorporated into a revised text. Several offers were made for implementing specific recommendations, including the hosting by the United States of a workshop in early 1995 to establish a list of chemicals for risk assessment by the year 1997. On a proposal from Poland, the Conference adopted a resolution on Priorities for Action in Implementing Environmentally Sound Management of Chemicals, as amended in Plenary (IPCS/IFCS/94.Res.2).

12. Declarations in support of the Forum and its work, including the need for both regional and subregional representation, were made by Chile on behalf of fourteen Caribbean and Latin American countries, Nigeria on behalf of the African group, and Kuwait on behalf of the Asian group. Declarations were also made by Germany, Greece on behalf of the European Union, Japan, Namibia, the Slovak Republic and South Africa, as well as by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in support of the Forum. Furthermore, several NGO's, including the International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI), the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), the International Union of Pharmacology (IUPHAR), and the International Union of Toxicology (IUTOX), offered their technical support to the work of the Forum.

ELECTION TO OFFICES OF THE FORUM AND ITS INTERSESSIONAL GROUP

13. The Conference, in accordance with paragraph 6 of the Terms of Reference, elected the following Government Participants to provide the following officers of the Forum: Sweden for President; China, Mali, and Mexico for Vice-Presidents; and the Russian Federation for Rapporteur. In accordance with paragraph 7.2 of the Terms of Reference the following were elected as Government Participants to the Intersessional Group: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Gabon, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. In the context of paragraph 7.2 it was understood by the Conference that any of the 26 Government Participants to the ISG may agree to have another Government Participant substitute for it. In this regard the President indicated that she had been informed that Tonga will substitute for the Republic of Korea in subsequent sessions of the ISG in the second half of the period between this Forum and the 1997 Forum.

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[1] Speaking on behalf of Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Japan, Kuwait, Mali, New Zealand, Nigeria, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

14. The Conference stressed that Participants of the Intersessional Group would be expected to establish an active network of information and consultation among countries of the region or sub-region from which they come.

TRIBUTE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN

15. On a proposal introduced by Brazil[2], the Conference adopted a Resolution (IPCS/IFCS/94.Res.3) paying tribute to the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden for hosting the Conference and for providing such excellent facilities and hospitality.

16. At the same time the appreciation of the Conference was expressed to those other countries and the European Commission which had generously contributed to its preparation and enabled a wider participation in its work. The valuable work undertaken by Dr M. Mercier (Director, IPCS) and the IPCS staff in preparation for and during the Conference, was also acknowledged.

CONFERENCE REPORT

17. The Report of the International Conference on Chemical Safety (IPCS/ICCS/94.8) was accepted as read by the Rapporteur, subject to subsequent completion and editing by the Rapporteur and the Secretariat. The final Report, including the Resolutions, will be sent to all participants.

TRANSMISSION OF THE REPORT TO THE SECOND SESSION OF THE CSD

18. The President stated that the Conference Report and the resolutions attached to it will be communicated to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its next session (New York, 16-27 May 1994).

CLOSURE OF THE CONFERENCE

19. Ms E. Dowdeswell, Executive Director, UNEP, addressed the Conference on behalf of the three sponsoring organizations, stressing the need to turn words into actions, particularly at the regional level. As the Task Manager of Agenda 21, Chapter 19, UNEP has a particular role to play and welcomes the possibility of other organizations, in addition to ILO and WHO, joining a strengthened chemical safety programme. The identification of priorities within the areas of Chapter 19 was one of the most important outcomes of the Conference.

20. Mr O. Johansson, Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources, Sweden, addressed the Conference stating that week that the foundation had been laid for world-wide chemical safety. Sweden will transmit the outcome of the Conference to the CSD in the hope that they will endorse and consider how the decisions can be implemented at the national, regional and international levels.

21. The President thanked the participants and closed the Conference thereby declaring, in accordance with Resolution 1, that the Conference had been the first session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety.

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[2] Speaking on behalf of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Mali, Nigeria, Oman, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

ANNEXES TO THE REPORT

Resolutions adopted by

the International Conference on Chemical Safety

IPCS/IFCS/94.Res.1
29 April 1994

Resolution on the establishment of an Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety

The International Conference on Chemical Safety,

Having met in Stockholm, at the invitation of the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden, from 25 to 29 April 1994 at a Conference convened by the Executive Heads of the International Labour Office, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization,

Being aware that a substantial use of chemicals is essential to meet the social and economic goals of the world community and of the need to achieve sustainable development,

Aware also of the potentially harmful impact on human health and the environment that adverse effects of chemicals may cause,

Mindful of the relevant and fruitful work which has been carried out at the national level, and by a great number of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to promote chemical safety,

Having regard to the recommendations of the Meeting of Government-designated Experts held in London, 16-19 December 1991 to discuss draft proposals for an intergovernmental mechanism for chemical risk assessment and management,

Having regard to the invitation by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in paragraph 76 of Chapter 19 of Agenda 21 to further consider the recommendations of the London Meeting and initiate action on them, as appropriate,

Determined to promote environmentally sound management of chemicals to ensure that chemicals be used with the highest degree of safety,

Convinced that a strengthened direct cooperation between all those concerned in the field of chemical safety would offer new opportunities to provide policy guidance, identify priorities and develop strategies in a coordinated and integrated manner, and provide the required political support and foster understanding of the issues,

Noting with appreciation the generous offer of the Director-General of the World Health Organization to offer the Organization's facilities and provide an interim Secretariat for the Forum,

1. ***Decides*** to establish the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety and to adopt the terms of reference as given in Annex I.

2. ***Invites*** the Executive Heads of the International Labour Office, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, as well as of other intergovernmental organizations that may participate as cooperating organizations in a strengthened International Programme on Chemical Safety, to make the necessary interim and longer term arrangements, for a cost-effective Secretariat for the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, bearing in mind the offer made by the Director-General of the World Health Organization and as permitted by resources.

3. ***Recommends*** with respect to the above that the Secretariat for the Forum should be within, but functionally distinct from, the Secretariat for a strengthened International Programme on Chemical Safety and that its work should not jeopardize the scientific and technical work carried out within the framework of the International Programme on Chemical Safety.

4. ***Considers*** that the administrative and financial estimates contained in Annex II provide a reasonable basis for the interim and longer term arrangements for the Forum.

5. ***Invites*** the Director-General of the World Health Organization, in consultation with the Executive Heads of the cooperating organizations, to provide for the establishment of a Trust Fund for voluntary contributions that will finance the costs related to the Forum including those activities of the Secretariat related to the Forum.

6. ***Recommends*** that the Forum conduct a full review of the organizational, administrative and financial aspects of the Forum, as well as an assessment of its effectiveness, for consideration by the third session of the Forum.

7. ***Declares*** that, for the purpose of commencing the work of the Forum, this Conference shall, at its completion, be considered as though it were the first session of the Forum.

ANNEX I

INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM ON CHEMICAL SAFETY

Terms of Reference

1. - Purpose and Aims

1.1 The Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (hereinafter called 'the Forum') is a non-institutional arrangement whereby representatives of governments meet, in accordance with paragraph 3, to consider and to provide advice and, where appropriate, make recommendations to governments, international organizations, intergovernmental bodies and nongovernmental organizations involved in chemical safety on aspects of chemical risk assessment and environmentally sound management of chemicals.

1.2 The purpose of the Forum is to provide policy guidance with emphasis on regional and sub-regional co-operation, develop strategies in a coordinated and integrated manner and foster understanding of the issues, and to promote the required policy support needed to discharge these functions.

1.3 The Forum will seek consensus amongst decision makers representing governments on the development of strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21, Chapter 19 (Environmentally Sound Management of Toxic Chemicals Including Prevention of Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products) and undertake periodic review of such strategies.

1.4 The Forum shall provide:

(a) clear and consistent advice for cost-effective, integrated risk assessment and management of chemicals using environmentally sound and generally accepted principles, including advice on alternatives to banned or severely restricted chemicals;

(b) improved delineation and mutual understanding of roles, initiatives and activities both within and among governments and international organizations having responsibilities for chemical safety.

2 - Functions

The functions of the Forum shall be to:

(a) identify priorities for cooperative action on chemical safety, advise and, where appropriate, recommend concerted international strategies for hazard identification and risk assessment of chemicals, including occupational exposure, and for environmentally sound management of chemicals, including risk reduction programmes and risk communication, particularly taking into account the special needs of developing countries;

(b) assist in securing the collaboration, through governments, of national, regional and international bodies active in the field of chemical safety, and avoid any duplication of effort in this area;

(c) promote the strengthening of national coordinating mechanisms and of national capabilities and capacities for chemicals management, especially in relation to infrastructure building, training, education, research and monitoring, and provision of information;

(d) promote international agreements and commitments on harmonized classification and labelling of chemicals;

(e) assist in identifying gaps in scientific knowledge and promote information exchange and scientific and technical co-operation, including training, and education and technology transfer;

(f) review periodically the effectiveness of relevant ongoing activities to implement recommended international strategies concerning chemical safety and make recommendations for further activities and, where necessary, advise on the strengthening or establishing the necessary follow-up mechanisms;

(g) advise governments in their work on chemical safety with particular reference to legislative aspects, promote cooperation among governmental, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations and encourage the appropriate distribution of work among organizations and other bodies within and outside the United Nations system in as clear and consistent a way as possible;

(h) promote the strengthening of national programmes and international cooperation for the prevention of, preparedness for, and response to chemical accidents including major industrial accidents;

(i) promote the strengthening of programmes for the prevention of and response to poisoning by chemicals; and

(j) perform other functions in pursuance of the purposes and aims of the Forum, as agreed by the Government Participants.

3 - Participation

3.1 All Member States of the United Nations, of its Specialized Agencies and of the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) shall be invited to participate in the Forum ("Government Participants"). Associate Members of any of the Specialized Agencies shall also be invited to participate, without the right to vote, in the Forum.

3.2 Relevant United Nations bodies and Specialized Agencies, as well as intergovernmental organizations representing regional geographic, political and economic groups of countries involved in the field of chemical safety ("Intergovernmental Participants"), shall be invited to participate, without the right to vote, in the Forum.

3.3 International nongovernmental organizations concerned with health, workers' interests, the environment, consumers and industry, involved in the field of chemical safety and having official relations or consultative status with any of the Intergovernmental Participants shall be invited to participate, without the right to vote, in the Forum ("Nongovernmental Participants").

3.4 The term "participants" in these Terms of Reference refers to all of the above governments, Associate Members and intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations.

4 - Government Representation

The representative of each government should be a senior official concerned with chemical safety, including health and environmental issues. Each representative may be accompanied by advisers as appropriate. It is expected that governments would ensure that their delegations reflect the full range of national interests.

5 - Sessions

Subject to the availability of funds, it is expected that after its inaugural session, subsequent sessions of the Forum will be held: a session to review progress on chemical safety prior to the Special Session of the UN General Assembly in 1997 concerning implementation of Agenda 21, and a session by the year 2000, *inter alia*, to review progress on Chapter 19. The need for further sessions would be reviewed at that time.

6 - Officers

At each session, the Forum shall elect, from among the representatives of the Government Participants, Officers consisting of a President, three Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur. They shall hold office until their successors are elected.

7 - Intersessional Group

7.1 There shall be an Intersessional Group of the Forum.

7.2 The Intersessional Group shall consist of the Officers of the Forum and not more than 26 Government Participants elected by each session of the Forum taking into account equitable regional and geographical representation. Other participants shall be entitled to participate, without the right to vote, in meetings of the Intersessional Group.

7.3 The Intersessional Group shall meet between sessions of the Forum in order to provide advice to the cooperating organizations of the International Programme on Chemical Safety and to deal with the work of the Forum between meetings. In particular, the Intersessional Group may make recommendations to the Forum, study special problems, and advise on the implementation of strategies and programmes as approved by the Forum.

7.4 Sessions of the Intersessional Group may be convened by the President in consultation with the Officers of the Forum as often as necessary and appropriate. The Intersessional Group shall normally meet immediately prior to and following each session of the Forum.

8 - Ad hoc Working Groups

Subject to the availability of funds, the Forum or the Intersessional Group may establish *ad hoc* Working Groups of Government and other agreed Participants for a set period of time to undertake specific tasks. Other participants shall, in accordance with the decisions of the Forum or the Intersessional Group establishing the *ad hoc* Working Group concerned, participate, without the right to vote, in meetings of the *ad hoc* Working Groups.

9 - Secretariat

The Forum, the Intersessional Group and *ad hoc* Working Groups shall be served by a Secretariat provided by a strengthened IPCS in a manner to be agreed.

10 - Decisions

10.1 The Forum, the Intersessional Group and *ad hoc* Working Groups shall proceed by consensus among the Government Participants. If consensus cannot be reached on administrative and procedural matters, a vote may be taken. Each Government Participant shall have one vote. Such decisions shall be taken by a majority of those Government Participants present and voting. For the purposes of these Terms of Reference, the phrase "Government Participants present and voting" means Government Participants casting a valid affirmative or negative vote. Government Participants abstaining from voting are considered as not voting.

10.2 Elections of Officers of the Forum shall be decided by consensus; where consensus cannot be achieved, the election shall be decided by secret ballot.

11 - Procedures

The Forum shall adopt, and may, at any session, amend its own rules of procedure. The Intersessional Group and the *ad hoc* Working Groups shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, the rules of procedure adopted by the Forum.

12 - Agenda

The Secretariat, in consultation with and under the guidance of the President of the Forum, shall prepare a Provisional Agenda for each session of the Forum. Any participant in the Forum may request the Secretariat to include specific items in the Provisional Agenda prior to its distribution. The Provisional Agenda shall be communicated to all participants in the Forum at least two months before the opening of the session. After the communication of the Provisional Agenda and before the adoption of the Agenda by the Forum, only items of an important and urgent nature may be proposed by participants.

13 - Budget and Expenses

13.1 The Intersessional Group shall prepare for consideration by each session of the Forum an estimate of expenditure related to the Forum, the Intersessional Group, *ad hoc* Working Groups established by the Forum and a Secretariat, together with information concerning expenditures for the period since the last Forum. This estimate, with such modifications as may be considered appropriate by the Forum in the light of potential funding, shall subsequently be considered in the budget of the Forum.

13.2 Any types of expenses related to participation in the Forum, the Intersessional Group or *ad hoc* Working Groups that are to be borne by participants shall be specified by the Forum.

14 - Reports

The Forum and the Intersessional Group shall consider and adopt a report at each of their sessions embodying the recommendations adopted. A statement summarizing minority views will be included

in the reports, when appropriate. The reports will be circulated to all participants in the Forum and, through appropriate channels, communicated to the Commission on Sustainable Development.

15 - Languages

The working languages of the Forum shall be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. The working languages of the Intersessional Group and *ad hoc* Working Groups shall be determined by the Officers of the Forum.

ANNEX II

CORE BUDGET FOR AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM ON CHEMICAL SAFETY AND ITS SECRETARIAT[1]

Introduction

1. There are two parts to the core budget for an Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) namely, the resources required to hold meetings of the Forum, its Intersessional Group and other subsidiary arrangements and resources for the Secretariat which would service the Forum and its subsidiary arrangements.

Meetings of the Forum and its Subsidiary Arrangements

2. Concerning the meetings of the Forum and its subsidiary arrangements, costs would include meeting facilities, interpretation and translation. Assuming a host government or organization provides the meeting facilities, the estimated costs of the Forum will depend on the length of the meeting and the number of languages used. Estimates have been made for a 4 day and a 5 day meeting of the Forum (plenary sessions only) and for 3 UN languages (English, French, Spanish), 4 UN languages (English, French, Spanish, Russian) and 6 UN languages (English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese)and for a 3 day meeting of the Intersessional Group (plenary session only) with either 3 UN languages, 4 UN languages or 6 UN languages. The costs of these various alternatives are given in Tables I, II and III respectively.

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[1] Cost estimates will be updated by the Secretariat as required.

ESTIMATES OF MEETING COSTS (in US$)

FORUM

4 DAY ESTIMATE[2]

TABLE I[3]

	3 LANGUAGES (E,F,S) (6)*	4 LANGUAGES (E,F,R,S) (8)*	6 LANGUAGES (A,C,E,F,R,S) (14)*
INTERPRETATION	14,200	25,600	56,800
TRANSLATORS	4,800 (3)*	6,400 (4)*	11,200 (6)*
BILING/STENOS	4,800	6,400	11,200
MISC. EXPENSES (Documents, etc.)	4,000	4,000	4,000
EQUIPMENT, ETC.	4,000	4,000	4,000
TOTAL	36,800	46,400	87,200

5 DAY ESTIMATE

TABLE II[3]

	3 LANGUAGES (E,F,S) (9)*	4 LANGUAGES (E,F,R,S) (12)*	6 LANGUAGES (A,C,E,F,R,S) (20)*
INTERPRETATION	36,000	48,000	80,000
TRANSLATORS	6,000 (3)*	8,000 (4)*	15,000 (6)*
BILING/STENOS	6,000	8,000	15,000
MISC. EXPENSES (Documents, etc.)	5,000	5,000	5,000
EQUIPMENT, ETC.	5,000	5,000	5,000
TOTAL	58,000	74,000	120,000

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[2] The Conference suggested it would be cost effective that the Forum held 4 rather than 5 day meetings.

[3] It has been assumed that for the Forum and its subsidiary arrangements, expenses incurred in connection with travel and attendance would be borne by each participant. A host or other governments or assistance agencies might cover participation costs of delegates from developing countries, from countries with economies in transition, or from non-governmental organizations. For information, it may be noted that the estimated costs for participation in the Stockholm Conference of some 100 delegates is approximately US$400,000. Should a donor offer to cover the participation costs of developing country delegates to a meeting of the intersessional group an estimated US$60,000 would be required.

* (..) number of interpreters or translators required

INTERSESSIONAL GROUP

3 DAYS

TABLE III

	3 LANGUAGES (E,F,S) (6)*	4 LANGUAGES (E,F,R,S) (12)*	6 LANGUAGES (A,C,E,F,R,S) (20)*
INTERPRETATION	14,200	19,200	33,600
TRANSLATORS	3,600 (3)*	4,800 (4)*	7,200 (6)*
BILING/STENOS	3,600	4,800	7,200
MISC. EXPENSES (Documents, etc.)	2,400	2,400	2,400
EQUIPMENT, ETC.	2,000	2,000	2,000
TOTAL	25,800	33,200	52,800

Secretariat

3. The Secretariat would be responsible for servicing the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS), whose main role is to provide an arrangement for consultation among governments and international organizations in the implementation of strategies for environmentally sound management of chemicals. The Secretariat would also be responsible for servicing any subsidiary arrangements which the IFCS would establish, such as its Intersessional Group. The Secretariat would need to prepare for both the meetings of the IFCS and its Intersessional Group, and ensure that the decisions of the Forum and its subsidiary arrangements were implemented. While the Secretariat resources required would depend on the work proposed by the Forum and its subsidiary arrangements, a basic minimum level of resources would be necessary for the Forum and its subsidiary arrangements to operate.

(i) Secretariat for a fully operating Forum with Subsidiary Arrangements

4. For the Forum when fully functioning after the interim period it is proposed that the basic minimum of resources might consist of:

a) The Head of the Unit, who would be responsible for the policy aspects and be required to liaise with governmental, international, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations. The appointment should be at a sufficiently senior grade for this person to have easy and direct access to senior policy makers within governments and international organizations. The person should have some governmental experience of chemical policy making. It is proposed that it should be an appointment at UN director level.

b) A Senior Programme Officer, who should have good technical knowledge and expertise in the field of chemical safety, particularly in relation to international work, and whose main tasks would be to supervise the preparation of technical documents and other material for the Forum and its subsidiary arrangements, as well as to follow-up at the technical and programming level, the decisions of the Forum and its subsidiary arrangements. This person would need to liaise closely with those responsible in a strengthened IPCS for ensuring coordination of international activities in relation to

specific programme areas of Agenda 21, Chapter 19. It is proposed that the appointment should be a UN grade P5.

c) A Technical Officer, who should have experience with computer science and communications technology as well as knowledge in the field of chemical safety, and who could promote enhanced rapid information flows among countries and international organizations in relation to the work of the Forum and its subsidiary arrangements. It is proposed that this appointment be at UN grade P.3.

d) Two Secretaries to support the work of the head of the Secretariat, the senior programme officer and the technical officer. The ability to work in English and at least French or Spanish would be essential. It is proposed that these appointments be at the UN grades G3/4.

e) Consultants and Technical Service Contracts in order to prepare technical documents for the Forum and its subsidiary arrangements. It is proposed that an average of 12 person months per year would be required.

f) Temporary Staff - The Secretariat work load may vary and be particularly heavy in the months prior to the meeting of the Forum or the Intersessional Group. Provision should be made for the possibility of employing temporary staff, particularly at the secretarial level.

g) Travel - The head of the Secretariat and the senior programme officer will need to consult with governments, international organizations and consultants, which will call for duty travel. All staff may need to travel in relation to the meetings of the Forum and its subsidiary arrangements.

h) Materials and Supplies - There would be an initial investment required for office equipment, plus regular maintenance and expendable office supplies.

The budget for this fully functioning Secretariat is estimated to be $819,000 (see Table IV). The Secretariat would need to operate in the context of an existing organization, which would provide office space and support facilities, as well as documentation reproduction and translation services. The standard charge for services of this type within the UN system is 13% of the budget, i.e. approximately US$106,587 per annum. This would give a total of US$926,487. The details are given in Table IV.

(ii) Interim Arrangements

5. During the transitional period from establishment of the Forum until the second meeting of the Forum, e.g. from May 1994 to end of 1996, if the Forum Secretariat were to be associated with an existing Secretariat such as the IPCS Secretariat, it may be feasible to combine the functions of the staff with existing duties such that half time was spent in support of the Forum. This would reduce the costs of the core Secretariat to US$615,794 per annum including programme support costs (see Table IV). Beyond 1996, depending on the work proposed by the Forum, it would be necessary to have full time staff. The details are given in Column (ii).

6. While it should not be expected that an existing international Secretariat should provide the Forum Secretariat without the necessary additional resources, these resources need not necessarily all be in direct cash terms. For example, certain staff positions could be provided through secondment, paid by a donor government. Certain services may be provided in kind.

TABLE IV

	(i) Fully Functional Secretariat (From 1997)		**(ii) Interim Arrangements (May 1994 to 1996)**	
Personnel	Man months	US$ p.a.	Man months	US$ p.a.
Head of the Unit (D2)	(12mm)	162,000	(6mm)	81,000
Senior Programme Officer (P5)	(12mm)	138,600	(6mm)	69,300
Technical Officer (P3)	(12mm)	107,900	(6mm)	53,950
2 Secretaries (G3/4)	(24mm)	141,400	(12mm)	70,700
Temporary Staff		30,000		30,000
Consultants (12 m/m)	(12mm)	120,000	(12mm)	120,000
Duty Travel		60,000		60,000
Materials and Supplies		60,000		60,000
		819,900		544,950
Programme Support Costs (13%)		106,587		70,844
		926,487		615,794
		====		====

IPCS/IFCS/94.Res.2
29 April 1994

Resclution on Priorities for Action in Implementing Environmentally Sound Management of Chemicals

The International Conference on Chemical Safety,

Having met in Stockholm from 25 to 29 April 1994, at a Conference convened by the Executive Heads of the International Labour Office, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, and hosted by the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden,

Having adopted the Terms of Reference for an Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety,

Noting the endorsement by the Meeting of Government-designated Experts held in London, 16-19 December 1991 of priority areas for an international strategy for the environmentally sound management of chemicals,

Recognizing the recommendation in Chapter 19 of Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and endorsed by resolution 47/190 of the United Nations General Assembly in December 1992, to strengthen significantly national and international efforts in the following six programme areas:

(a) Expanding and accelerating international assessment of chemical risks;

(b) Harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals;

(c) Information exchange on toxic chemicals and chemical risks;

(d) Establishment of risk reduction programmes;

(e) Strengthening of national capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals;

(f) Prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products.

1. ***Adopts*** the recommendations on priorities for action for the effective implementation of the above six programme areas as set forth in the Annex to this resolution;

2. ***Urges*** all participants in the Forum to cooperate to the fullest extent possible, particularly on a regional basis, in the effective implementation of the recommendations set forth in the Annex;

3. ***Decides*** that a report on the progress made in implementing the above recommendations be presented to the next session of the Forum.

ANNEX

Priorities for Action

Introduction

1. While Agenda 21 gives the overall objectives of the six programme areas and suggestions for their implementation, the adopted recommendations indicate priorities for immediate actions and goals to be achieved in the longer term. Agenda 21 states that its successful implementation is first and foremost the responsibility of governments. Accordingly, the given recommendations are first of all dealing with priorities for action by governments, but several of them regard work by which international bodies may develop effective tools for use by governments.

2. Close cooperation between international organizations and governments, and the development and strengthening of cooperation at the regional level are in a great number of cases important means to enhance significantly the result of recommended actions.

3. National implementation of international agreements on chemical safety should be encouraged.

4. At the national level, an efficient coordination of the work on chemical safety by concerned sectors is a prerequisite for successful results. Active participation of employers and workers, mobilization of the nongovernmental sector, and strengthening of the community right to know are important factors for increased chemical safety.

5. Much of the work to strengthen chemical safety has been carried out by several United Nations bodies and programmes, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the European Union, a number of countries, industries, trade unions and other NGOs, resulting in many useful tools for improvement of chemical safety. An expanded knowledge and use of these means should be promoted.

6. Adequate and good quality information on scientific, technical, economic and legal matters are essential for the sound management of chemicals. Developing countries and countries with economies in transition have particular problems in this regard. Bilateral technical assistance, transfer of technology, and other kinds of support should be increased in order to accelerate their development.

7. In all programme areas, there is a need for education and training. Efforts to satisfy this need should be carefully coordinated, and emphasis should be put on training the trainers.

8. Risk reduction activities should take into account the whole life-cycle of a chemical, and chemical controls and pollution control initiatives should be closely integrated. Where relevant, the precautionary approach, as outlined in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration, should be applied.

9. Special attention should be paid to occupational safety and health problems caused by chemicals, primarily in the interest of protecting workers' health. In addition, epidemiological and other data based on human experience have always proven to be valuable with respect to other chemical-related problems.

10. When determining priorities for risk management, the implementation of these will be dependent upon the chemicals management capabilities of individual countries. When setting priorities for international activities, high priority should be given to those where achievement of goals can occur only when action is carried out at the international level. Activities leading to greater efficiency and cost savings, e.g. sharing of risk assessment reports of adequate quality, should be promoted. Completion of work where significant initiatives are well underway should have priority before initiating new programme activities.

11. Major actions undertaken should be monitored to assess progress.

12. The order in which the following recommendations are presented does not indicate various degrees of importance.

Programme area A: Expanding and accelerating international assessment of chemical risks

1. Needs for different types of health and environmental risk assessments should be identified and criteria for setting priorities for the various types of risk assessments should be agreed. Applying these criteria, an initial list of chemicals (including those of high production volume) for risk assessment by the year 1997 should be established as soon as possible.

2. Harmonized approaches for performing and reporting health and environmental risk assessments should be agreed as soon as possible. Such protocols should be based on internationally agreed principles to permit the full use of risk assessments performed by both national authorities and international bodies.

3. An inventory of risk assessments that are planned, in preparation or completed should be established before the end of 1994.

4. Industry should be encouraged to generate and supply data required for risk assessment to the greatest possible extent.

5. Human exposure data, and good quality health effects data from developing countries, should be generated.

6. Taking into account the results of the activities recommended in items 1 and 2 and making full use of the evaluations produced by United Nations bodies, OECD, and others, 200 additional chemicals should be evaluated by 1997.

7. If the target in item 6 is met, another 300 chemicals should be evaluated by 2000.

8. The general principles for establishing guidelines for exposure limits, including the setting of safety factors, needs to be harmonized and described. Countries should establish guidelines for exposure limits for humans and for particular environmental compartments for as many chemicals as possible, taking into account the harmonization efforts and the potential use of such guidelines.

9. Research and development should be promoted for the better understanding of the mechanisms of adverse effects of chemicals on humans and the environment.

10. Attempts should be made to further reduce the use of vertebrate animals in toxicity testing by encouraging the development, validation and use of alternative methods.

Programme area B: Harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals

1. The ongoing technical work on classification criteria should be strengthened to enable finalization by 1997. Continued work to harmonize classification systems and to establish compatible hazard communication systems, including labelling and safety data sheets, should be completed by 2000.

2. Countries should ensure that there is sufficient consultation to allow the development of a consistent national position on harmonization of classification systems.

3. An international framework for translating the result of the technical work on harmonization into an instrument or recommendations applicable legally at the national level should be established at an appropriate time.

Programme area C: Information exchange on toxic chemicals and chemical risks

1. Networks for information exchange should be strengthened to take full advantage of the information dissemination capacities of all governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

2. Both the types of information exchanged and the methods of effecting the exchange should be tailored to meet the needs of major groups of users, taking due account of different languages and literacy levels.

3. Relevant data available from international bodies should be consolidated, if economically feasible, by 1997 on CD/ROM or other appropriate electronic media, together with suitable searching and updating facilities.

4. Sources of information useful to responding to chemical emergencies should be established and access to these sources should be readily and rapidly available.

5. Regional cooperation and information exchange networks should be established in all regions as soon as possible.

6. National institutions responsible for information exchange on chemicals should be created or strengthened, according to needs.

7. All countries should have nominated, by 1997, designated authorities for participation in the PIC procedure.

8. Work should continue to evaluate and address problems with implementation of the voluntary PIC procedure and to develop effective international legally binding instruments concerning the PIC procedure.

9. All countries which export chemicals subject to the PIC procedure should have the necessary mechanisms in place by 1997, including implementation and enforcement provisions, to ensure that export does not take place contrary to importing countries' decisions. Importing countries should also establish the necessary mechanisms.

10. In all developing countries and countries in economic transition, training should have been made available by 1997 in the implementation of the London Guidelines and the PIC procedure.

11. The circulation of safety data sheets for all dangerous chemicals being traded should be encouraged, as promoted by the recently agreed Code of Ethics on The International Trade in Chemicals.

Programme area D: Establishment of risk reduction programmes

1. In all countries chemical risks which are both readily identifiable and readily controllable should be reduced as soon as possible. In countries with sufficient resources, plans for the possible reduction of other chemical risks should be elaborated and enacted without delay. Industry, in accordance with the Polluter Pays Principle, has a particular responsibility to contribute to the implementation of risk reduction programmes. Governmental experience and progress in national risk reduction programmes shall be presented in a report by 1997 to serve as a basis for setting goals for the year 2000.

2. The feasibility and usefulness of extending pollutant release and transfer registers to more countries, including newly industrialized countries, should be evaluated and a report prepared by 1997.

3. As a particular priority, the recently agreed Code of Ethics on The International Trade in Chemicals should be applied widely by industry in all countries without delay.

4. Efforts to promote the development and use of clean technology regarding the production and use of chemicals should be encouraged.

5. Countries should review their pesticides safety strategy in order to protect human health and the environment, including surface and ground water. To reduce pesticide risks, countries should consider promoting the use of adequate safer pesticides, as well as the decreased use by better management practices and the introduction of alternative pest management technologies. A progress report should be prepared by 1997.

6. By 1997 not less than 25 more countries should have implemented systems for prevention of major industrial accidents in accordance with international principles such as those contained in the 1993 ILO Convention (No. 174) on the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

7. By 1997 not less than 50 more countries should have introduced national systems for emergency preparedness and response, including a strategy for education and training of personnel, with the aid of, *inter alia*, the APELL programme and the ILO Code of Practice on the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents (1991).

8. By 1997 not less than 40 more countries should have established poison control centers with related clinical and analytical facilities, and good progress should have been made on harmonizing systems for recording data in different countries.

9. Priority attention should also be given to finding and introducing safe substitutes for chemicals with which high and unmanageable risks are associated. Governments, industries and users of chemicals should also develop, where feasible, new less hazardous chemicals and new processes and technologies which effectively prevent pollution.

10. While recognizing that risk reduction activities are primarily national responsibilities, international risk reduction programmes could also be warranted for those problems that are international in scope.

11. Attention should also be paid to ensuring that all countries introduce appropriate legislation to implement UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and to ensuring that this legislation is regularly updated whenever the Recommendations are revised, especially in the context of the global harmonization of classification and labelling systems.

Programme area E: Strengthening of national capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals

1. The strengthening of national capabilities and capacities to manage chemicals in a great number of developing countries requires, in addition to funding and support from developed countries, innovative thinking as to how to make best use of existing systems. Bilateral assistance arrangements between developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition should be encouraged. Efficient regional cooperation is of the utmost importance.

2. National profiles to indicate the current capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals and the specific needs for improvement should be elaborated as soon as possible and not later than 1997.

3. Comprehensive guidelines for chemical legislation and enforcement should be elaborated as soon as possible, taking into account, *inter alia*, the principles of the 1990 ILO Chemicals Convention (No. 170).

4. By 1997 mechanisms for ensuring liaison of all parties involved in chemical safety activities within a country should be established in the majority of countries.

5. Further education programmes and training courses should be arranged at the national and regional level to provide a core of trained people, both technical staff and policy makers, in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

6. Efforts should be made to improve the coordination of activities in the area of education, training and technical assistance.

7. As a longer term objective, chemical information systems should be established in all countries, comprehensive legislation should be enacted and enforcement procedures be in place. Continued campaigns to increase the public awareness of chemical risks and their prevention should be run.

Programme area F: Prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products

Until control legislation is in place in a sufficient number of countries, as a basis for further legal international instruments to halt illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products, all efforts should be made to improve the situation, including strengthening of the PIC procedure.

IPCS/IFCS/94.Res 3
29 April 1994

Resolution

Tribute to the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden

The International Conference on Chemical Safety,

Having met in Stockholm from 25 to 29 April 1994 at a Conference convened by the Executive Heads of the International Labour Office, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization,

Recalling that the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden also hosted the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972, and other major international meetings on chemical safety,

Acknowledging with gratitude the generous support provided by the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden in hosting the present Conference,

Grateful for the kind hospitality provided to the delegates to the Conference,

Expresses its deep appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden.